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NEWS RELEASE

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THREE ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS FROM PARSONS, KANSAS PLEAD GUILTY IN CRACK COCAINE CASE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Adam Davis**, 28, **Joseph Riley**, 25, and **Rita Smith**, 35, all of Parsons, Kansas entered a guilty plea June 7, 2004, before U.S. District Judge G. Thomas Van Bebber.

Davis pled to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine from January 1998 through September 2003. Davis also admitted to a forfeiture allegation, which requires him to forfeit all rights, interest, and ownership in proceeds from the drug trafficking activities.

Melgren said that Davis admitted at his plea that beginning in at least January 1999, he and several others were engaged in distributing crack cocaine to other individuals in Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri. Davis and his co-defendants would obtain larger quantities of cocaine hydrochloride (powder) and then manufacture the cocaine base ("crack cocaine") or sometimes purchase large quantities of crack cocaine and sell it in smaller quantities. Davis distributed varying quantities of crack cocaine to lower level distributors. Beginning in February 1, 2002 residences in Parsons, Kansas were utilized to store, package, and distribute the crack cocaine and marijuana. One of the residences utilized was leased to co-defendant Shannon Harris.

Riley pled to one count knowingly and intentionally distributing more than 5 grams of a substance and mixture containing cocaine base on or about May 6, 2002. Riley also admitted to a forfeiture allegation, which requires him to forfeit all rights, interest, and ownership in proceeds from the drug trafficking activities.

Melgren said that Riley admitted at his plea that on May 6, 2002 he sold approximately one-quarter ounce of crack cocaine to an undercover KBI agent from one of the residences utilized to store, package, and distribute the crack cocaine and marijuana. Riley also admitted to selling marijuana from approximately November 1999 through

February 2000 in Jasper County, Missouri.

Smith pled to one count knowingly and intentionally distributing a substance or mixture containing cocaine base within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising Garfield Elementary School, which is a public elementary school in Parsons, Kansas.

Melgren said that Smith admitted at her plea that she had arranged the purchase of approximately 1.16 grams of a mixture or substance containing crack cocaine base from an apartment located in Parsons, Kansas. The apartment where the transaction occurred was within 1,000 feet of the real property of Garfield Elementary School in Parsons, Kansas.

Adam Davis and Smith are scheduled for sentencing on August 23, 2004 and Riley is scheduled for August 30, 2004.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Parsons Police Department, the Labette County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, the Coffeyville Police Department, the Winfield Police Department, the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, the Labette County Attorney's Office, and the Cowley County Attorney's Office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.